



The ADVISOR

TEACHERS, EMPLOYEES, and JUDICIAL



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SERVING OVER 330,000 MEMBERS

September 2013

The October Advisor will start a 90-day countdown to Alabama losing \$375 million!

The federal government will pay the Medicaid funds quarterly. Thus, you lose the first quarterly payment if you do not join the program before year-end. Waiting until after the 2014 election would cost the state \$1.5 billion.

Actions louder than words

Source: Montgomery Advertiser – Opinion

According to Gov. Robert Bentley, if Republicans are to attract more supporters, especially among younger, non-white voters, they need to be seen as caring about people.

Bentley offered his observations at a national meeting of younger Republicans in Mobile last week.

He's surely right about that.

Still, it sounded a bit odd coming from a governor who has stubbornly refused to expand Medicaid coverage in his state, even under the extremely favorable financial terms allowing it under the federal Affordable Care Act and even though it would provide health care coverage to hundreds of thousands of lower-income Alabamians who don't have it now.

How can he expect to be seen as caring about people while clinging to that stance? Bentley also tirelessly touts his efforts in economic development and his work to bring jobs to Alabama. All governors make those efforts, of course, and new jobs do help people.

Yet at the same time, Bentley has chosen to largely ignore a study by respected researchers at the University of Alabama at Birmingham that cites enormous economic benefit for our state under the Medicaid expansion the governor won't permit.

Consider the combination – expanded health care coverage for hundreds of thousands of our people, thousands of Alabama jobs created by that expansion, and a whopping return on a relatively small investment by the state in a program paid for entirely with federal funds for the first three years and which eventually tops out at a still remarkably favorable 90-10 federal-state split in later years.

How can he expect to be seen as caring about people when he rejects that?...

We don't doubt that Bentley cares about people in an individual sense. He's not some ogre.

However, his policy decisions, which affect Alabamians in the much larger sense of the greater good, don't reflect the caring he says his party needs to display. ■

Uncle Sam – “Just Keep Our Dang Old Money!”

By David G. Bronner



Alabama's governor has a decision to make before the end of this year. Does Alabama accept billions of dollars from Uncle Sam and create thousands of jobs by expanding Medicaid, or tell that “bad” federal government to keep “our” money and send it somewhere else?

For years, numerous Alabamians have been operating under the mistaken belief that the federal government takes more from us than they give back. In truth, study after study has shown that for every dollar paid by Alabamians to Washington, \$1.55 to \$1.74 is returned, depending on inclusion of military expenditures.

The election of 2014 is no justification for passing up about \$1.5 billion in federal funds next year without any strings attached. Alabama would receive that same amount for three years without contributing a cent! If we chose to remain in the program after three years, the 10% Alabama must contribute each year does not reach the full 10% until 2020.

At the grand opening of the state's third medical school in Dothan, the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine, our governor said, “One doctor who comes to town brings \$1.5 million in economic growth with the multiplier effect.” Well Whoopee!

In the name of St. Peter, for the 300,000+ poor Alabama men, women and children, we need to accept the \$4.5 BILLION over the next three years that Washington is offering for better health care and jobs, while creating significant economic growth. ■

If you have missed, or forgotten, the importance of expanding Medicaid for Alabama – see Page 3.

FreightCar America Celebrates Milestone

By Bernie Delinski – Times Daily

The yellow 57-foot, 6-inch long flat railcar on display in July was the first FreightCar America assembled at the Barton Riverfront Industrial Park. For FreightCar and Navistar Corp., as well as Shoals and state leaders, it also stood as a 54,800-pound symbol of progress at the mammoth plant, which has had its share of ups and downs.

"We've welcomed you to this plant a few times," David Bronner, chief executive officer of the Retirement Systems of Alabama, told the crowd who attended a ceremony inside the plant. "We've had a



Photo by Matt McKean/Times Daily

tough time but we made it."

The gathering was a celebration of FreightCar starting production at the Barton plant. Company officials

announced in February they were subleasing part of the Navistar Corp. plant with plans to build up to 7,000 cars annually....

FreightCar officials have said they plan to have 200 workers on site by the end of the year and 400 by the end of 2014. McNeely said the plant will have 400-500 employees when fully productive, but the time line depends on market conditions. About 70 FreightCar workers already are at the plant, he said. In addition, Navistar officials said their company has about 180 workers at the plant. ■

World Class Alabama

By Cary Estes, *Business Alabama*

Look for master practitioners or top facilities that are among the best in the world and it quickly becomes clear that sports bring out the best in Alabama.



The sun rises on the sixth hole of the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail's Ross Bridge course in Birmingham — one of 11 golf complexes comprising the 21-year-old Trail.

Photo by Michael Clemmer, Golf Landscape

Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail

It is not difficult to find a place to play golf in the United States. The National Golf Federation puts the total number of U.S. courses at approximately 16,000, meaning most golfers can tee it up within a short drive of their home.

Despite this fact, thousands of golfers make the trip to Alabama every year in order to play on one of the 26 courses that comprise the Robert Trent Jones

Golf Trail, a series of championship-level courses spread across the state from Mobile and Dothan to Huntsville and Muscle Shoals. RTJ officials say more than 500,000 people play one of the trail courses each year, and approximately 60 percent of those golfers are from out of state, including a significant number from Canada and England.

David Bronner, the CEO of the Retirement Systems of Alabama and the man who helped come up with the idea for the RTJ Trail more than 20 years ago, points out that California regularly ranks in the top five among out-of-state visitors to the Trail. "That's quite amazing, because it's a long ways to come from California to Alabama," Bronner says. "That's really the essence of the Trail."

Legendary golf course architect Robert Trent Jones helped design most of the courses before his death in 2000. The New York Times has called the Trail "some of the best public golf on Earth," and apparently quite a few golfers agree. Officials say the Trail has attracted more than 10 million visitors since the first course opened in 1992.

"This is something other states don't have, and it has provided Alabama with the ability to expand tourism and recruit industry," Bronner says. "That's really been the beneficial part of the Trail." ■

RSA 2012 Annual Report Wins Award

The RSA and Out of The Blue creative services received the Honors Award in the Non-Profit Organization: Government Agencies and Offices category of the 27th International ARC Awards competition for their creation of the Retirement Systems of Alabama 2012 annual report. The report reviewed the impact of the Retirement Systems of Alabama's investments in the state through tourism, business development and security. The visual focus of the report was an aerial tour, photographed by Robert Fouts, of the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail in celebration of its 20th year. A digital version of the report is available through the publications section at www.rsa-al.gov.

The International ARC Awards, the "Academy Awards of Annual Reports," according to the financial media, was established in 1987 by MerComm, Inc. to honor overall excellence in annual reports and to encourage noteworthy and vital writing, as well as imaginative and original design. It is now the largest international competition honoring excellence in annual reports. ■

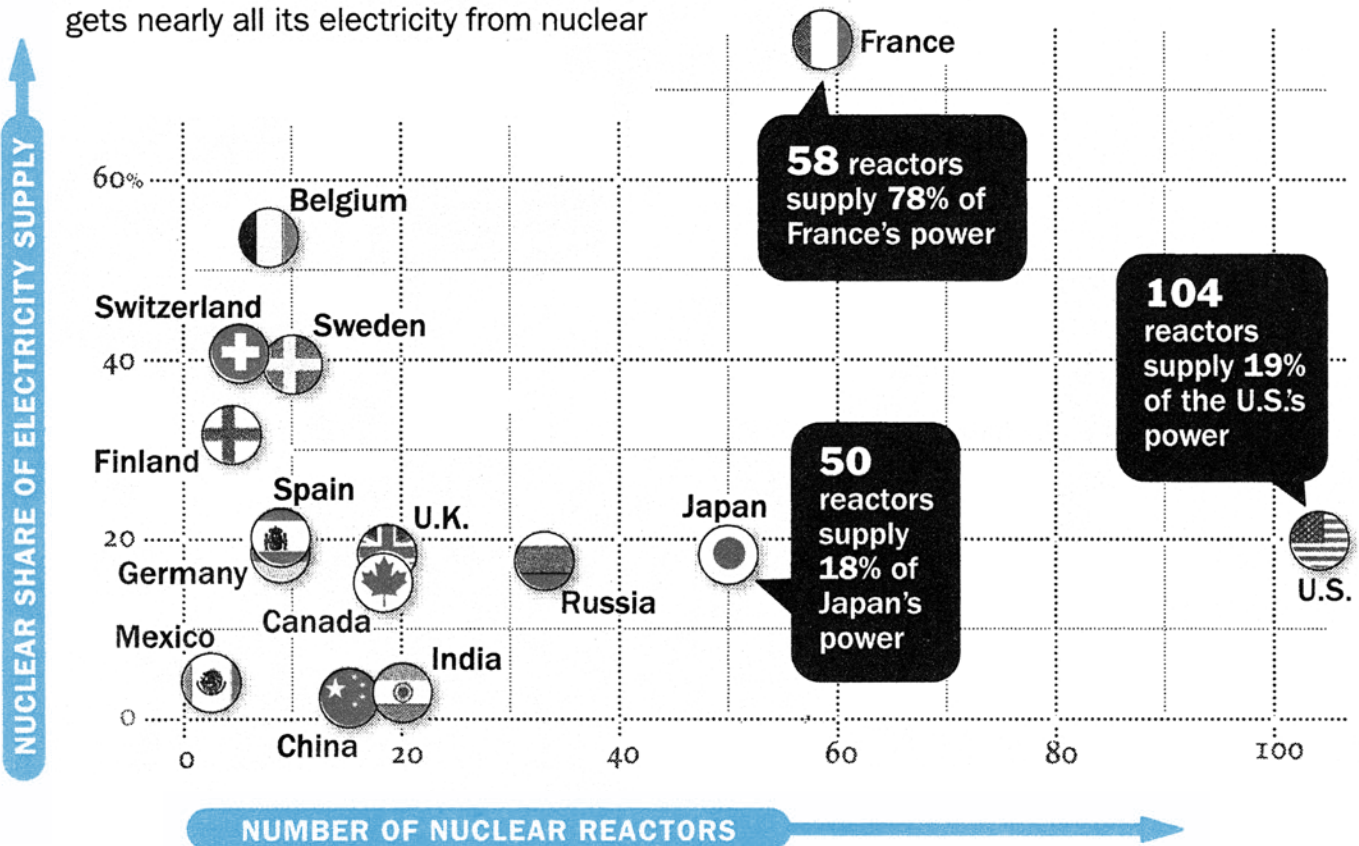
Eight Insights on Medicaid Expansion in Alabama

By David G. Bronner

1. Georgia is projected to create 70,000 new jobs from Medicaid expansion. Since Alabama has half the population of Georgia, Medicaid expansion could possibly generate 35,000 new jobs for Alabama. Even if expansion of Medicaid only created 17,500 jobs, that would still be the largest influx of new jobs in Alabama's history.
2. Adding \$15-17 billion, about \$1.5 billion per year, to Alabama's economy is a big deal that helps all 67 counties with the federal government paying 90% of it.
3. If someone comes to you and says invest \$1 billion (\$771 million is supposed to be the number) and gives you \$15 billion back, it is a great deal. I will take that deal all day long. Alabama pays nothing for \$1.5 billion in each of 2014, 2015, and 2016. It is not until 2020 that Alabama pays its 10% share.
4. Alabama's \$771 million to \$1 billion investment will generate over \$1.7 billion in tax revenue, create tens of thousands of jobs, and help over 300,000 women and children in need. These are the Alabamians I am speaking up for.
5. Major critics of Obamacare were Republican governors – including Florida's Rick Scott, Arizona's Jan Brewer, Michigan's Rick Snyder, and New Jersey's Chris Christie (who will likely be the Republican frontrunner in 2016) – and have all agreed to take the money! Governor Scott said, "Looking at the numbers, there's no way to pass this up."
6. Everyone talks about wanting to help poor people in the Black Belt. Hello! That is where most of the new jobs would be going.
7. Alabama invested \$380 million in Mercedes for an initial 1,000 jobs, which has now grown to around 4,000 to 5,000 jobs. The state invested \$180 million in Airbus, creating an initial 1,000 new jobs. No economic development investment in the world would bring the state 35,000 new jobs. Even if Alabama only received 10,000 to 15,000 new jobs that would still be the largest influx ever in Alabama's history. Only government has the ability to produce jobs on that scale.
8. Get over it. Let's do what is right and responsible for Alabama and its citizens. Alabama starts to lose federal funds and rejects thousands of new jobs starting January 1, 2014! ■

Atoms Across the World

The U.S. has the most reactors, but France gets nearly all its electricity from nuclear



Source: IAEA

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- October 1-3, 11-21, 25-27, 30-31 • November 3-30

Marriott Grand—\$109 plus a 15% resort fee

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- October 1-2, 6-8, 13-15, 30-31
- November 10-11, 17-21, 26

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- October 1-2, 6-8, 13-15, 30-31
- November 10-11, 17-21, 26

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- September 2-3, 8-9, 15-16, 29-30 • October 6-7, 27
- November 8-11, 22-30

Renaissance Ross Bridge—Hoover—\$109

- September 1-9, 12-15, 19, 22-26, 29-30
- October 1-3, 6, 20, 22-24, 27-31
- November 3, 7, 10-14, 17-21, 24-28

Opelika Marriott—\$99

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- October 1-3, 6-10, 13-17, 20-24, 27-30
- November 3-6, 10-14, 17-19, 22-28

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- September 1-9, 12-21, 23-24, 29-30
- October 2, 8, 12-13, 26, 29-31
- November 1-4, 6-12, 15-26, 30

Renaissance Montgomery—\$109

- September 1-3, 6-9, 12-15, 18-19, 21-30
- October 4-5, 7, 13, 21, 26-27
- November 1, 4-6, 9-10, 14, 16, 19-20, 22-26, 28

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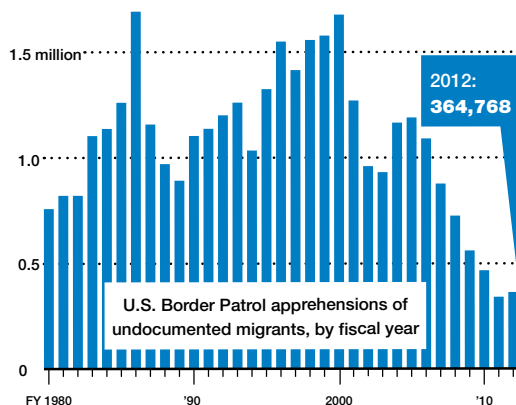
TRS Board Election Runoff

There will be a runoff between C. Ray Hayes and Dr. Robert Brooks for the Higher Education Position No.1. Ballots will be mailed on September 3, 2013, to all active members currently contributing to the TRS and classified as a higher education employee of a public four-year institution of higher education. Ballots are due by 4:00 p.m., September 27, 2013.

Members will be able to vote by returning the ballot in a prepaid postage envelope or by voting online or by telephone. Instructions will be included with the ballot. If you have any questions, please contact the Election Coordinator at 877.517.0020. ■

Receding Tide

U.S. officials say the steep decline in apprehensions of people crossing illegally from Mexico is a sign of decreased immigration flows



Source: U.S. Border Patrol Note: Federal fiscal years end on Sept. 30 The Wall Street Journal

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